



RACKET SQUAD



O'MALLEY

IN ACTION

SWEEPSTAKE SWINDLE



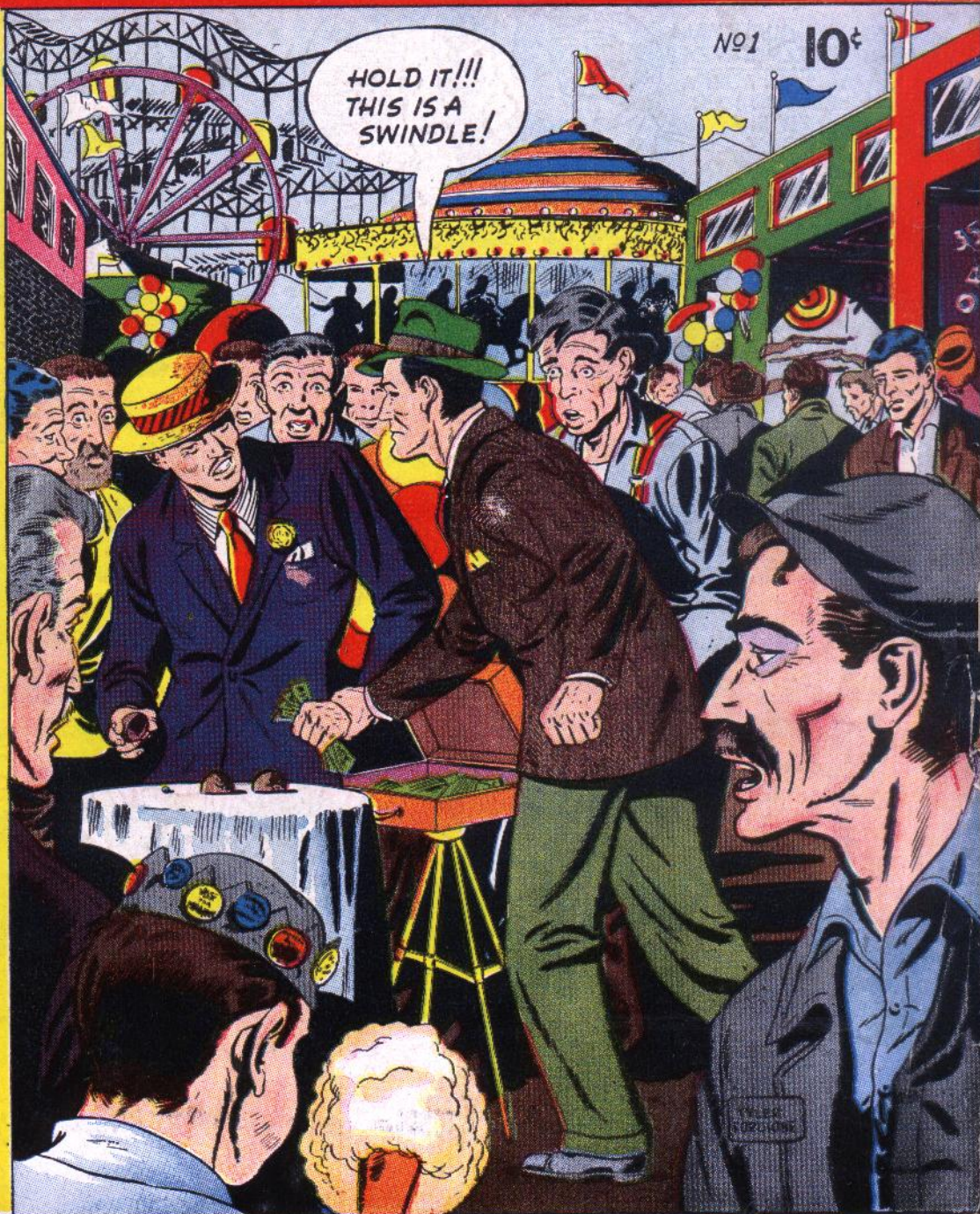
BADGER RACKET



CHEATING GAMBLERS



DIAMOND SWITCH





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

In This Issue:



THE GUATEMALA SWEEPSTAKES!

YOU CAN'T GET A 'RUN FOR YOUR MONEY' IN A RACE THAT NEVER TAKES PLACE!

TOO MANY TRICKS!

TRAPPING THE SMART SOCIETY CROOK WHO PREYED ON UNSUSPECTING GEM DEALERS!

THE BADGER GAME!

FLASH! ANOTHER CHUMP WAS TAKEN FOR A TRIMMING BY 'BADGER WORKERS' WHOSE GAME WAS IRON-CLAD UNTIL THE LAW CRACKED DOWN!

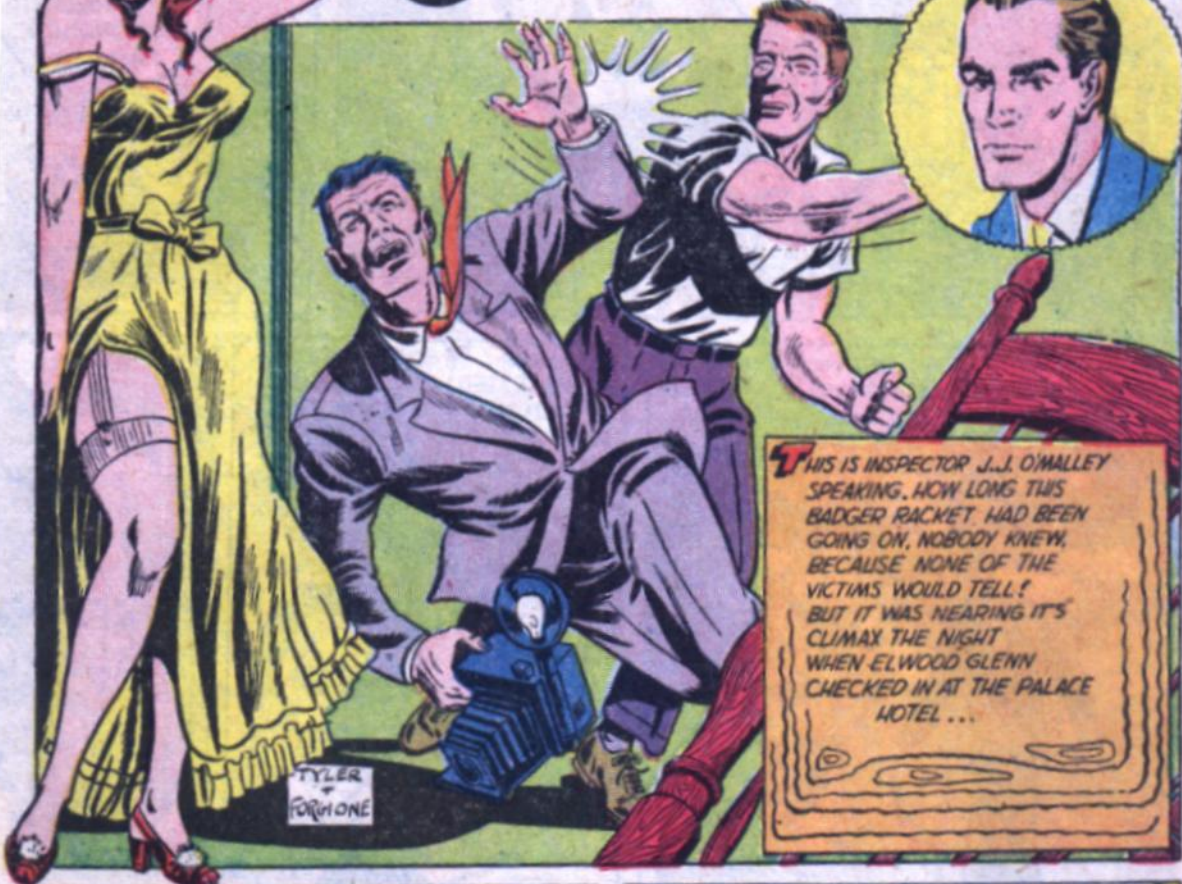
CARD SHARPS!

SIDNEY RADNER, AUTHORITY ON GAMBLING, TELLS WHAT CAN REALLY HAPPEN TO STRANGERS ON A TRAIN!

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RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE Badger Racket!



THIS IS INSPECTOR J.J. O'MALLEY SPEAKING. HOW LONG THIS BADGER RACKET HAD BEEN GOING ON, NOBODY KNEW. BECAUSE NONE OF THE VICTIMS WOULD TELL! BUT IT WAS NEARING ITS CLIMAX THE NIGHT WHEN ELWOOD GLENN CHECKED IN AT THE PALACE HOTEL ...



AND YOU RECEIVED MY WIRE FOR A RESERVATION?

CERTAINLY, MR. GLENN. WE'RE ALWAYS GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK AT THE PALACE HOTEL. WE'VE GIVEN YOU ROOM 608.



ELWOOD GLENN, ROOM 608. APPARENTLY HE STOPS HERE OFTEN.

GOOD. THAT MEANS HE'S LESS LIKELY TO BEEF. WATCH FOR HIM IN THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE, MARCIA. IF HE SHOWS THERE, HE'S OUR PIGEON!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

LATER...



GOOD EVENING, MR. GLENN. GLAD TO SEE YOU BACK. HERE'S A NICE TABLE, SIR..



OH, JIM.. I'M SO SORRY TO BE LATE.. WHY, WHY.. YOU AREN'T JIM.. I.. I'M SO SORRY..

RELAX, RELAX.



I'M MARCIA WELLINGTON AND I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET MY HUSBAND JIM, RIGHT HERE, AN HOUR AGO..

HAVE A CIGARETTE AND ORDER YOURSELF A DRINK. WHEN JIM ARRIVES I'LL TAKE ANOTHER TABLE.



SO **THIS** IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN HIDING ALL THE PAST HOUR?

BUT JIM, I ONLY JUST ARRIVED. THIS IS MR. GLENN. HE AND I HAVE BEEN SMOKING AND CHAT- TING..

SORRY.. I MUST BE GOING.



NICE GOING, JIM. HE SCARED SO FAST THAT HE FORGOT HIS CIGARETTE CASE.

GOOD. THAT GIVES YOU AN EXCUSE TO RENEW THE ACQUAINTANCE WHEN HE GETS BACK TO HIS ROOM. HURRY UPSTAIRS AND GET READY!

LATER..

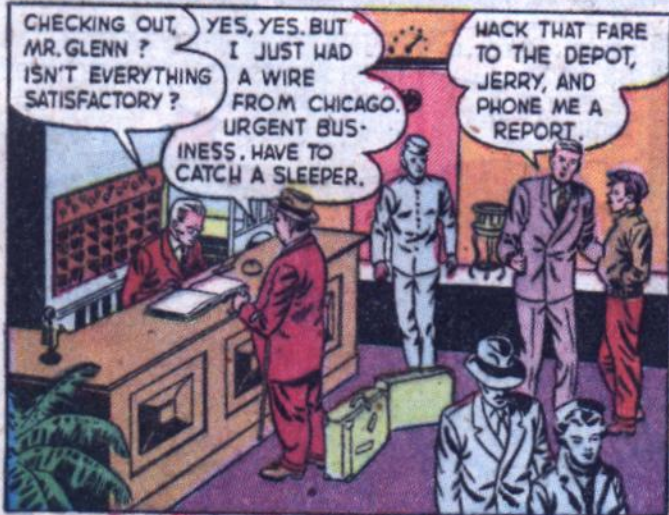


COME IN! COME IN!



FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT HAPPENED, MR. GLENN. JIM WASN'T ANGRY AT YOU.. HE WAS MAD AT ME. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO COME IN SO I COULD GIVE YOU YOUR CIGARETTE CASE. I HAVE IT RIGHT HERE..

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

JUST WRITE IT OUT FOR \$500..AND YOU'RE GETTING OFF EASY..

WAIT NOW, THIS TIME IT'S \$650. ...GOTTA BE FOR THE CAMERA YOU BUSTED!



LATER...

ROUGH GOING. BUT WE TOOK HIM OVER!

YEAH? I'M NOT SO SURE WE DID! HE DIDN'T CHECK OUT LIKE THE OTHERS, SO WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE INSTEAD!



\$500- \$650? SOMETHING VERY PHONEY! I'LL SLEEP ON IT!



NEXT MORNING...

AND THAT'S THE STORY, INSPECTOR O'MALLEY. OF COURSE WHEN THE CAMERAMAN HAD ME INCLUDE HIS BILL ON THE CHECK I REALIZED IT WAS A FRAME!

SO YOU STOPPED PAYMENT AND CAME HERE TO REPORT THE CASE. NOW LET'S HEAR WHAT MY ASSISTANT STEVE PRYOR HAS TO SAY!

WE PHONED THE PALACE HOTEL, SIR... THE WELLINGTONS CHECKED OUT THIS MORNING!



NO, INSPECTOR. I DON'T SEE ANYBODY IN THIS FILE RESEMBLING THE WELLINGTONS.. IF THAT'S THEIR RIGHT NAME!

IT PROBABLY ISN'T... PEOPLE WHO WORK THE BADGER GAME USUALLY QUIT ONCE THEY'VE BEEN CAUGHT, SO THE RACKET IS FULL OF NEW FACES. HOWEVER, STEVE... WE'LL FIND THEM!

THE DESCRIPTION OF THAT CANDID CAMERA FELLOW MAY HELP!



THIS DESCRIBES THE WELLINGTONS ALL RIGHT, BUT THEY DIDN'T LEAVE ANY FOWARDING ADDRESS. IN FACT I DON'T REMEMBER THEM EVER GETTING MAIL!

THIS DESCRIPTION OF THE CAMERAMAN RINGS A BELL! I SAW HIM TALKING TO A CAB DRIVER!



THERE'S ONE GUY WHO MIGHT KNOW THIS PHONEY CAMERAMAN, THAT'S JERRY GRAFF. HE DRIVES AN INDEPENDENT CAR.

YEAH..AND JERRY'S A PHONEY HIMSELF. FUNNY HE HASN'T BEEN AROUND LATELY!

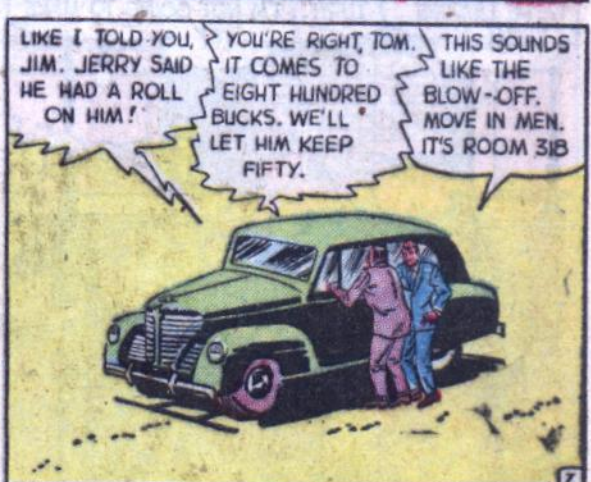
I'LL LOOK HIM UP!



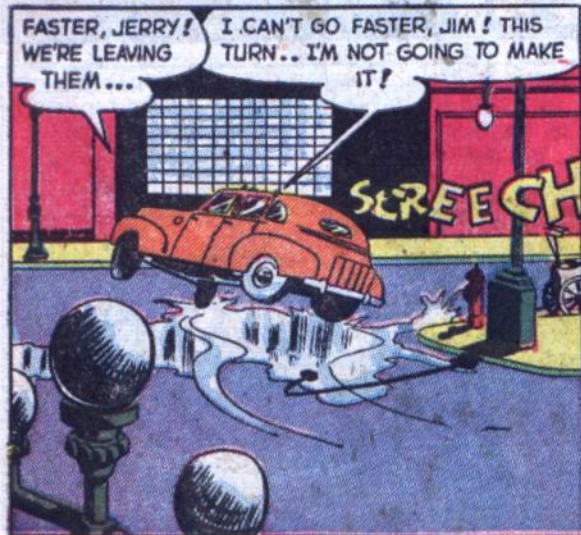
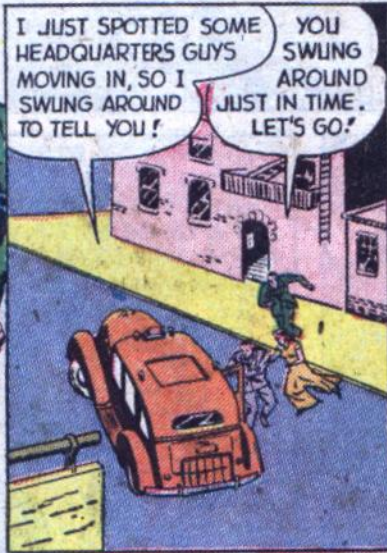
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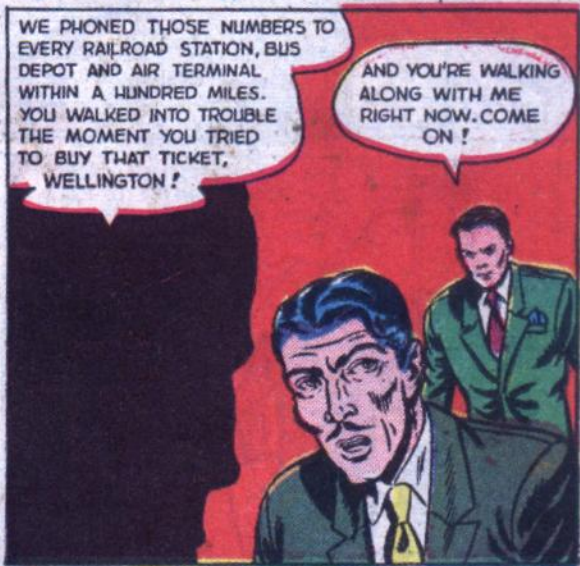
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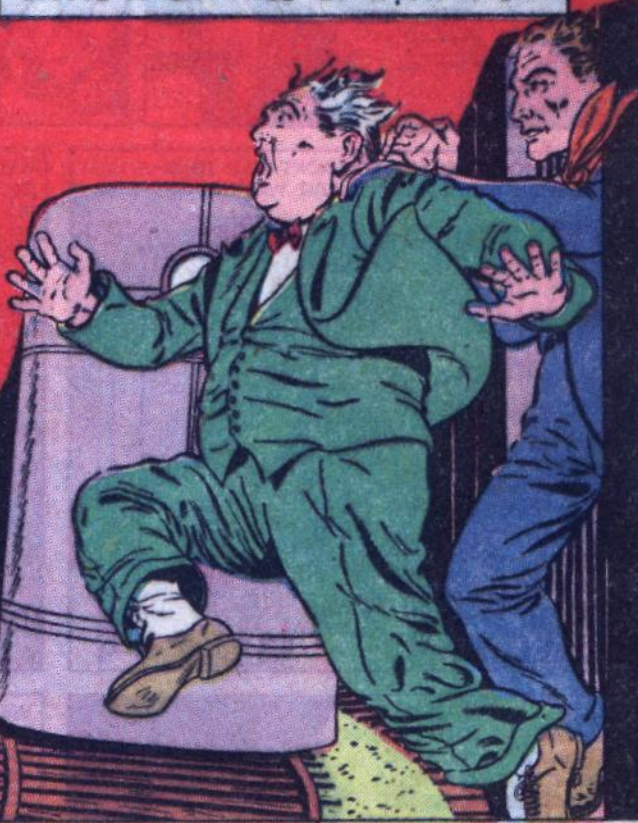


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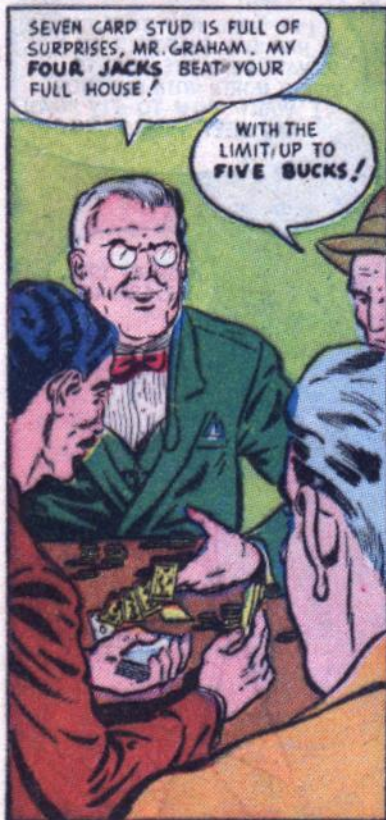
MY NAME IS SIDNEY RADNER. I EXPOSE CROOKED GAMBLERS OF ALL DESCRIPTION BY EXPLAINING AND DEMONSTRATING THEIR METHODS IN LECTURES FROM COAST TO COAST. THIS STORY IS BASED ON ACTUAL DATA FROM MY FILES... WE PICK IT UP AT THE CLOSE OF ONE OF MY DEMONSTRATIONS...

GAMBLERS WON'T GAMBLE!

THEY PREFER A "SURE THING"
UNTIL IT CATCHES UP WITH THEM



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



I'M GLAD YOU'RE THE WINNER, KELTON, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY CHECK FOR THE \$5000. THAT I OWE.

LOOK THROUGH THAT PACK THOSE BOUN- DERS BROUGHT HERE, GRAHAM. IF ANY CARDS ARE MARKED, OUR BETS ARE OFF.



NOT A MARKED CARD IN THE DECK, KELTON...

JUST THE SAME 'GRAHAM, I DON'T LIKE TO TAKE YOUR MONEY. I'M TEARING UP THIS CHECK YOU GAVE ME.



BUT KELTON, YOU WON FAIRLY... I CERTAINLY OWE YOU SOMETHING...

LET'S SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE, THEN. WRITE ME A CHECK FOR \$2500. AND WE'LL CALL IT SQUARE.



KELTON MUST HAVE LEFT THE TRAIN AND HOPPED BACK TO NEW YORK BY PLANE, BECAUSE BY THE TIME I REACHED MIAMI, BOTH CHECKS HAD GONE THROUGH MY BANK. HERE THEY ARE.



THE "TEAR-UP" IS AN OLD GAME, MR. GRAHAM... KELTON SWITCHED IN A DUMMY WHILE YOU WERE EXAMINING THE DECK... NICKING YOU FOR THAT SECOND CHECK WAS AN ADDED TWIST... BUT YOUR ONLY WAY TO NAIL KELTON IS TO CATCH HIM AT THE SAME GAME!



I'VE DONE JUST THAT, RADNER! I HAD HIM SHADOWED BY A PRIVATE DETECTIVE WHO IS RIDING NORTH WITH HIM NOW. I WANT YOU TO FLY DOWN AND MEET THEIR TRAIN!

A GREAT IDEA, MR. GRAHAM.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



I TOOK THE NEXT PLANE TO SAVANNAH AND CAUGHT THE STREAMLINER JUST AS IT WAS PULLING OUT...



GRAHAM HAD GIVEN ME A GOOD DESCRIPTION OF TOWNLEY, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE HE'D HIRED... I FOUND TOWNLEY IN THE OBSERVATION LOUNGE...

THIS LETTER FROM MR. GRAHAM EXPLAINS THINGS

GOOD. KELTON IS IN THE DINER. LET'S GO THERE.



WE'VE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT A CARD GAME. I'LL BRING YOU IN AS ANOTHER PLAYER.

GOOD!



THIS GENTLEMAN GOT ON AT SAVANNAH, MR. KELTON. HE'D LIKE TO JOIN OUR GAME.

I'LL BE BACK IN MY DRAWING ROOM IN TEN MINUTES.



SINCE HE'S TAKING ON THE TWO OF US, KELTON IS PLAYING A LONE HAND THIS TRIP.

HERE ARE MY CREDENTIALS CONDUCTOR. WE'LL CALL WHEN WE NEED YOU.

RIGHT!



LATER...

TOO BAD ABOUT YOUR EYES, MR. KELTON. YOU DON'T SEE VERY WELL, DO YOU?

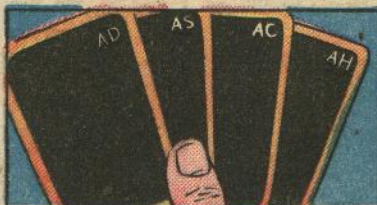
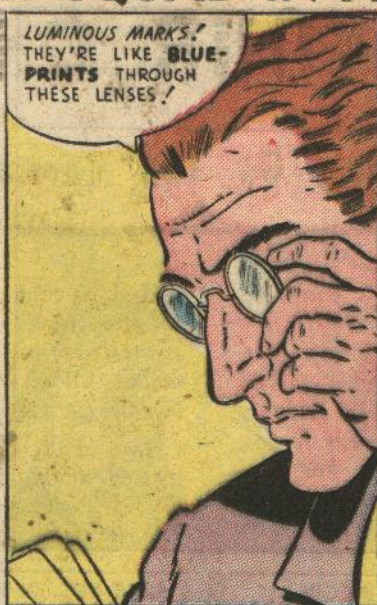
SEE? HA-HA! I'LL NOT ONLY SEE YOU, I'LL RAISE YOU!



SAY, WHAT IS THIS...

WE JUST WANT TO LOOK OVER THAT PACK OF YOURS, KELTON!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



THE END

COUNT YOUR CHANGE!

The Real Low-down On The Lowest Of Rackets

Every year the American public is furnished with staggering figures compiled by expert statisticians, telling of the enormous losses suffered through gyp schemes, swindles, rackets and their like. Always that same public is warned to be on the lookout for all such frauds. Yet meanwhile, the very people who are most on the alert are being methodically fleeced and consistently trimmed by the sure-fire operators who specialize in the short-change game. This hidden racket, without doubt takes as great an annual toll as all the other combined.

The "ten-fold" is the name given the fanciest of all short-change artifices. As well as fanciest, it is the rarest. The reason: It can only be worked around places where hundred dollar bills are common, such as ritzy night-clubs, big-time gambling joints, or the swankier resort hotels. After establishing confidence by his casual handling of hundred dollar bills, the short changer begins passing ten-spots which he has folded so that the number 100 shows instead.

He creases back the left edge of the bill, alongside the zero of the "10" in the upper corner. He carries that crease over to right, covering the figure one of the "10" in the upper right. In this case, ten plus zero equals one hundred, to all appearances. The swindler then folds the bulk of the bill underneath, bending the lower portion up and under. Pressing his thumb just below the top figures, he holds the bill folded so that it appears to be a hundred-spot.

If he habitually handles bills in this fashion, the swindler can frequently fool a night club cashier when paying a large tab, or can get by with it at a gambling joint when buying chips. It's all done with a casual flash that imprints "100" on the mind of the person receiving the bill. Nervy though it is, the ruse has a strong element of safety. Only after unfolding the bill will the cashier discover it to be a ten and then the "evidence" in the form of the tricky fold, is no longer in existence!

A different sort of "fold" is used in everyday life. Here, the short changer is usually a man

behind a counter or concession booth. When he gives nine dollars change for a ten-spot, to complete a one dollar sale, he counts off nine dollars, all in ones. But the customer gets only seven bills, not nine.

Two of the bills are folded in half and interspersed among the others. They are placed so that their loose ends all point the same way. The short changer keeps his thumb across the center of the little pile, thus holding the folded bills in place. This enables him to count nine bills instead of seven, by lifting the bills at the end where two of them are doubled. Thus two of the bills are counted twice, although all seems perfectly fair.

Most operators have a neat trick of inserting their fingers among the folds and straightening the doubled bills while passing the batch to the customer. The victim spends his money, wondering how a couple of extra bucks went so fast, never realizing that he was gyped of them to begin with! This is one way of having your money doubled, only to find that you have less!

Naturally, the trick can be worked both ways. Often, short change artists use the "fold" when making purchases at stores and some even add a twist of "stealing" one bill from a normal stack, while spreading it. But a careful clerk can put the skids under such chicanery. If he counts the money before putting it in the cash register, the customer will have to apologize for a mistake and make up the difference.

This so hurts the pride of some gyp artists, that they resort to the "split bill" system, which has its dangers, as it involves tampering with U.S. currency, but is seldom spotted. Even then, it allows the hustler a chance to pose as an innocent party who had some funny money passed on him without his knowledge.

The story goes that the "split bill" came into vogue when some sharper soaked a Bank of England note in water and found that it came apart as two bills, each with printing showing on both sides. This was corrected so that British bills would be blank on one side if "split" in such fashion and the same is true of U.S. money.

So for a long while it seemed ridiculous to "split" bills and hope to pass them in that form. Then the gyps found a way to work it.

Their system was to split bills of two denominations, like a batch of ones and another group of fives. They then glued the fives and ones back to back. The result was a bill that showed a five on one side and a one on the other.

A short changer, armed with such bills, goes into a store and makes a purchase totalling eighteen dollars. He brings out three five dollar bills and three singles, counting them quite carefully, but letting them get mixed say, first a five, then two ones, pair of fives and finally an odd single. He hands these to the clerk who recounts them, maybe separating them at the same time, but finding nothing wrong with the amount.

One of the "fives" however, is a double-facer, showing a five on one side, a one on the other. Such a bill is worth only three dollars, since a pair of them are formed from a five and a one. Thus the clerk has collected fifteen instead of eighteen dollars. If he happens to turn over the bills while putting them in the cash register, they still appear as genuine currency and he is not likely to note the difference in the amount.

The short changer usually does something to divert the victim's attention at any crucial stage of the deal. As with all trickery it's a case of getting people to look close when there is nothing phoney to be observed; then coaxing them into a careless mood when the pinch arrives.

Around carnivals or amusement parks, the "take it or leave it" system is in vogue, when the counter man wants to hang a gyp on his customers, as its name implies, the customer gets a chance to "take it" if he wishes. The short changer pushes some coins forward, after giving them a very fair and accurate count. He does this near a large pile of change that is lying loose on the counter. As he pushes the money, he deftly separates it into two groups, one going to the ticket buyer, the rest remaining close to the big pile.

The victim takes the group nearest him, not realizing the rest of the change is his also. Should he count it and return to "beef" over it, the short changer gestures to a few odd coins and snaps: "That must be yours. Why didn't you take it?"

This system is a favorite with ticket sellers who have a window booth, particularly the sort with a metal cross-bar or a wicket. They can pick just the right angle to place the extra coins in a spot where the customer does not see them

when he gathers up his change. If he comes back, he wonders why he didn't see it all along and never thinks to blame the ticket seller.

If you ask the average person to give you change for a five dollar bill, he will invariably hand you four ones, then count out a dollar's worth of change. In ticket booths, the opposite procedure is usual. The seller counts out the silver, pushes it to the customer, and brings up the bills from beneath the counter. Ticket-sellers seldom are in a hurry, but purchasers often rush away. Naturally, the seller can't climb through the window and run after them. Maybe he doesn't intend to short-change them and as a matter of fact, he never would — if he paid out the bills first and the small change last.

However, that form of the "take it or leave it" allows no chance of a protest by the customer. It is surpassed only by the system used at shooting galleries, or other counters where the customer is busy with some sort of game while his money is being changed. The operator simply puts the coins on the counter and forgets them, hoping the victim will do likewise. Such counters are usually decorated with nice aluminum paint which happens purely by coincidence, to match coins made of silver and nickel. Since the paint looks so nice, the proprietor always brushes or wipes the counter after the customers walk away. It is really surprising how often he comes across coins there!

It is the ease with which the short changer can be worked that has built it into America's biggest swindle; that, plus the factor stated earlier: Volume of business. After all, everybody changes money dozens of times a day, so the opportunities for such gyps are many.

Sales of stocks and oil-wells, payments on insurance claims, even transactions involving bank checks, are infinitesimal, when compared with the handling of actual currency. What's more, people are often on guard when they buy or sell; but they pay little attention to the matter of making change.

Though it is only petty graft where the individual is concerned, short changing is being worked by so many small-fry gyp artists that its total assumes gigantic proportions.

By watching out for short-changers, you can save your money — if you count it yourself! Don't let them do that for you. It's their own particular specialty.

Above all, remember that the real experts in this type of swindle have pet tricks of their own and switch methods before the customer can catch up with them.

—THE END—

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE

JEWELRY SWINDLE



INSPECTOR J.J. O'MALLEY SPEAKING!
IF CROOKS AND SWINDLERS WERE
REALLY CLEVER, THEY WOULD
TURN TO HONEST WAYS...

INSTEAD, THEY WORK SOME SCHEME SO OFTEN
THEY BEGIN TO THINK THEY CAN GET AWAY
WITH ANYTHING. LIKE RALPH AND LUCILLE
CROYDON. THEIR RACKET WAS JEWEL SNATCHING...

WHAT LOVELY WRIST-WATCHES.
OH, THAT REMINDS ME! MINE
NEEDS A NEW BAND!

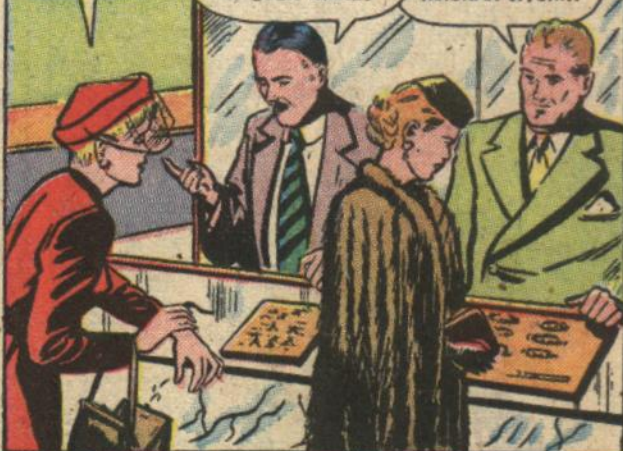
STEP RIGHT INSIDE,
LADY, AND THEY'LL
TAKE CARE OF YOU.



I WANT A NEW
BAND FOR THIS
WATCH...

SORRY, WE'RE
BUSY... AND THE
REPAIR DEPARTMENT
IS OVER THERE!

NOW WE HAVE
SOME OTHER
FINE BROOCHES,
MRS. VAN WYCK...



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



FROM THEN ON, THE RACKET REALLY WENT INTO HIGH GEAR... THE TOTAL FROM THE BAFFLING GEM THEFTS CLIMBED PAST THE \$100,000 MARK... AND THE FACTS WERE MEAGER INDEED!!



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THAT SAME DAY...
TODAY, YOU'RE TO BE MRS. DEWITT TORRINGTON... MY **DEAR** MRS. TORRINGTON, ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO ARMITAGE'S?

INDEED, I AM! I NEED NEW TRINKETS SO, SO BADLY FOR THE SEASON IN MIAMI... GET INTO YOUR BEGGAR'S OUTFIT. I'LL BE THERE IN HALF AN HOUR.

BUT WE NEVER ALLOW BEGGARS IN HERE...

MY WORD! YOUR HEARTS ARE HARDER AND COLDER THAN YOUR DIAMONDS. HERE, MY MAN, TAKE THIS TWENTY DOLLARS!

YOU FOOL, YOU LET THAT BEGGAR IN HERE! HE PLAYED ON THE SYMPATHY OF MRS. DEWITT TORRINGTON AND SHE ALMOST WALKED OUT!

YOU MEAN THAT BUM SLIPPED BY ME TWICE? WHY, I OUGHT TO BREAK HIS NECK...

HEY, YOU, FELLOW! I HAVE A SCORE TO SETTLE, YOU KNOW!

YEAH? YOU'D BETTER START COUNTING, THEN...



MY WORD, AM I SEEING RIGHTLY?

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



WHAT A HAUL! BUT THAT HASSLE WITH THE DOORMAN WAS A CLOSE ONE!



IT'S LIKELY TO MEAN TROUBLE FOR LUCILLE, SO I'D BETTER SWITCH CLOTHES FAST!



PAGING MR. RODNEY...MR. CECILE RODNEY..

JUST IN TIME, AT THAT!



WE'RE NOT **ACCUSING** YOU, MRS. TORRINGTON, BUT SOME OF OUR FINEST GEMS ARE GONE, AND AFTER ALL, YOU ARE A **NEW** CUSTOMER...

I'M TELLING YOU AGAIN, MR. ARMITAGE, YOU MUST SPEAK TO MY ATTORNEY, CECILE RODNEY AT THE PARK PLAZA...

THEY'RE GETTING HIM NOW!



NATURALLY, MR. RODNEY, WE DON'T WANT A DAMAGE SUIT... CERTAINLY, WE'LL RELEASE MRS. TORRINGTON ... PROVIDED THAT WE HAVE YOUR ASSURANCE THAT SHE WILL APPEAR IN COURT IF REQUIRED...

TELL MR. ARMITAGE I'LL SEE HIM LATER...

WHY, OF COURSE!



SO THE SCENE WAS "ALL CLEAR" WHEN I ARRIVED...THE CUSTOMERS ALL HAD BEEN SEARCHED AND WERE GONE...JUST LIKE THE DIAMONDS!

WE PHONED MRS. TORRINGTON'S HOME LATER. THEY SAID SHE'D GONE TO FLORIDA. MR. RODNEY ISN'T LISTED IN THE PHONE BOOK...

THEY REALLY TOOK YOU, DIDN'T THEY? I'LL PHONE INSPECTOR O'MALLEY!



AND THERE'S MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE, INSPECTOR, EXCEPT WHAT MET THE DOOR-MAN'S EYE!

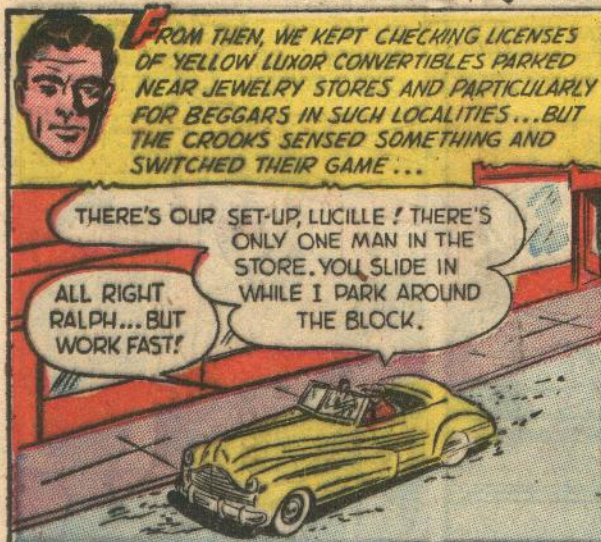
I'LL QUIZ HIM, MARY. YOU STAY UNDER COVER.



AND YOU SAW THE BEGGAR GET INTO A CAR? DID YOU GET THE LICENSE NUMBER?

NO, BUT IT WAS A LAST YEAR'S LUXOR EIGHT. I REMEMBER THE COLOR...A YELLOW CONVERTIBLE!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



FROM THEN, WE KEPT CHECKING LICENSES OF YELLOW LUXOR CONVERTIBLES PARKED NEAR JEWELRY STORES AND PARTICULARLY FOR BEGGARS IN SUCH LOCALITIES... BUT THE CROOKS SENSED SOMETHING AND SWITCHED THEIR GAME...

THERE'S OUR SET-UP, LUCILLE! THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN IN THE STORE. YOU SLIDE IN WHILE I PARK AROUND THE BLOCK.

ALL RIGHT, RALPH... BUT WORK FAST!



NOW HERE IS A LOVELY SELECTION...

SO THAT'S WHY YOU DREW ALL OUR MONEY FROM THE BANK! TO BUY A LOT OF GAUDY JEWELRY! GIVE ME THAT PURSE!

OH... MY HUSBAND!



HE SNATCHED SOME LADY'S BAG! STOP, THIEF!

I'LL GET HIM!

NO, NO! LET HIM GO. IT'S HIS WIFE'S



I'LL FIX YOU!

NO, NO... DON'T... LET HIM GO!



IT'S HIS WIFE'S PURSE... THEY HAD A FAMILY QUARREL. SHE'S FAINTED IN MY SHOP...



I *HOPE* RALPH GOT AWAY... MEANWHILE I'VE GOT TO TRAVEL FAST...



GONE... AND THE JEWELS WITH HER!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



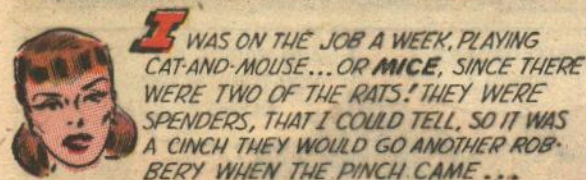
AND SHE WAS WEARING A MINK COAT...

SOUNDS LIKE THE GIRL. HERE'S THE LICENSE OF A LUXOR EIGHT THAT WAS PARKED IN THAT AREA. RALPH CROYDEN, AVENUE APARTMENTS. TAKE IT, MARY.



THE NEXT DAY!

A LOVELY ONE-ROOM APARTMENT! A BIT HIGH, BUT I'LL TAKE IT!



I WAS ON THE JOB A WEEK, PLAYING CAT-AND-MOUSE... OR MICE, SINCE THERE WERE TWO OF THE RATS! THEY WERE SPENDERS, THAT I COULD TELL, SO IT WAS A CINCINCH THEY WOULD GO ANOTHER ROBBERY WHEN THE PINCH CAME...



THIS GIRL WHO JUST MOVED IN ACROSS THE HALL ACTS AS THOUGH SHE'S DODGING SOMEBODY. MAYBE WE COULD USE HER...

YOU'RE GIVING ME AN IDEA. GET CHUMMY WITH HER. MEANWHILE QUIT SMOKING CIGARETTES AND START CHEWING GUM!



A MONTH'S RENT IS DUE AND I MEAN LAST MONTH'S. WE'LL HAVE TO HOCK THAT MINK OF YOURS UNLESS WE PULL ANOTHER JOB... AND QUICK!

I'M SCARED OF THAT ACT-WE STAGED AT MORTON'S RALPH. HE MIGHT HAVE DOUBLED BACK AND CAUGHT ME COLD-HANDED!



DOUBLED BACK AND CAUGHT ME COLD-HANDED!



WHY, MARY DEAR! CAN'T I HELP YOU UP WITH SOME PACKAGES?

YOU SURE CAN. HERE'S MY APARTMENT KEY. TAKE ALL OF THEM UP WHILE I RUN BACK TO THE CORNER AND GET THE REST!



SHE'S UP IN MY APARTMENT NOW, INSPECTOR. I'M SURE SHE'LL FIND THOSE PHONEY PAROLE PAPERS WITH MY NAME...

YOU'LL **KNOW** IF SHE OFFERS YOU A DEAL. PLAY RIGHT ALONG!



IT'S **SO** EASY, MARY. AFTER I LEAVE THE JEWELRY STORE, YOU COME IN AND SLIDE YOUR HAND ALONG BENEATH THE COUNTER.. HAVE SOME GUM? IT'S CINNAMON.

NO, THANKS. I MEAN NO GUM. BUT I'LL TAKE THE DEAL!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



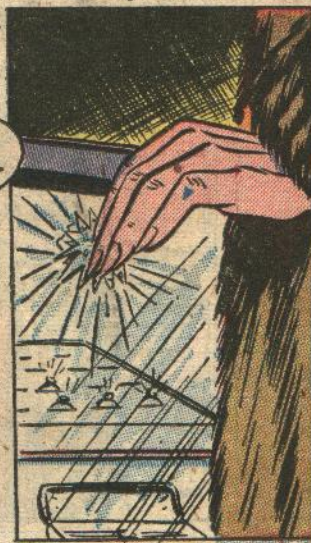
AND SO, RALPH AND LUCILLE TOOK ANOTHER FLYER, WITH ME AS THE PERFECT FALL GUY...



YOU SOMETHING WITH SAPPHIRE INSTEAD OF TOPAZ?

HAVEN'T

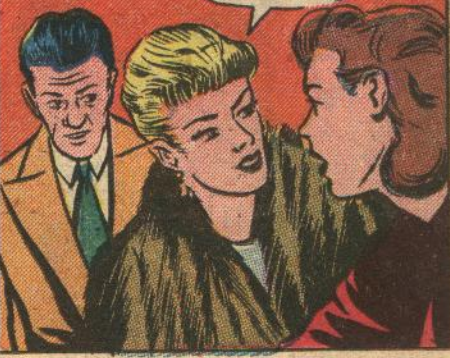
WHY, YES...



SORRY WE HAVEN'T WHAT YOU WANT. BUT IF YOU'LL COME BACK...

SHE'S COMING BACK RIGHT NOW..

MARY... YOU FOOL!



IF THERE'S ANYTHING MISSING, YOU'LL FIND IT UNDER THE COUNTER EDGE...

THE TOPAZ STAR-CLUSTER, STUCK HERE WITH CHEWING GUM!

I'LL HANDLE THIS SMART DAME, LUCILLE..



YOU'LL HANDLE WHICH?

AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?



YOU HAVE NOTHING ON ME...

NOTHING ON YOU? ONLY A PACKAGE OF CINNAMON CHEWING GUM, THE SAME FLAVOR AS THE WAD STUCK TO THAT STAR-CLUSTER!



I HOPE LUCILLE LEFT SOME FINGERPRINTS ON THAT JEWEL COUNTER..

SHE DID SOMETHING BETTER! SHE LEFT A TOOTH-PRINT IN THAT GUM! ALONG WITH YOU CALLING THE FLAVOR, THAT'S A CLINCHER!

YES, RALPH AND LUCILLE CROYDEN THOUGHT THEY KNEW EVERY SWINDLE IN THE GAME OF JEWEL THIEVERY, ONLY TO FIND THAT THE LAW COULD TURN THE TRICK ON THEM!!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE GUATEMALA SWEEPSTAKES

EVERY CROOK LIKES A SURE THING. THAT WAS THE WAY WITH THE CROWD THAT COOKED UP THE GUATEMALA SWEEPSTAKES. THEY COULDN'T LOSE BECAUSE IT DIDN'T EXIST... THE ONLY TROUBLE WITH THE SWINDLE WAS THE SUCKERS WERE CROOKS TOO.... FOR INSTANCE, MARTY BLAKE...



BOY, OH, BOY!

WHAT IS IT, MARTY, A LETTER FROM ONE OF THOSE OTHER DAMES YOU SAY YOU NEVER RAN AROUND WITH?



WINNIE WAIT!

WHY, IT'S ONLY A BOOK OF SWEEPSTAKE TICKETS! WHAT'S THAT TO GET EXCITED ABOUT? EVERYBODY PEDDLES THESE!



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

EVERYBODY PEDDLES **IRISH** SWEEPSTAKE TICKETS, WINNIE, BUT THIS IS A NEW ONE... THE **GUATEMALA** SWEEPSTAKES. AND I HAVE AN **EXCLUSIVE** IN THIS TOWN!



A HUNDRED TICKETS AT \$250 EACH AND I KEEP A BUCK APIECE AS MY COMMISSION, IF I BUY RIGHT NOW!



SO THERE GOES \$150 TO THE **GUATEMALA TURF ASSOCIATION**... WHY SO FAST?

SO I'LL GET ANOTHER BOOK WHILE I'M SELLING THIS BATCH... AND KEEP MY **EXCLUSIVE**. SEE SWEET?



I'LL TAKE ONE, MARTY. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE WHETHER IT'S BEING RUN IN IRELAND OR **GUATEMALA**? THE **PAY-OFF** COUNTS.

GIMME A COUPLE, MARTY!

NONE FOR ME, MARTY!



I'LL TAKE ANOTHER, MARTY!

SORRY THAT'S THE LAST ONE..

NOT QUITE, HERE'S ANOTHER BATCH FROM **GUATEMALA**!



SEE, SWEET? SOLD A COUPLE FROM THE NEW BOOK ALREADY... ARE YOU CONVINCED?

I'M WILLING TO BE, PROVIDED YOUR CUSTOMERS REMAIN THAT WAY!



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

JUST THIS. THEY'VE TALKED ABOUT THE **GUATEMALA SWEEPSTAKES** THAT PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO ASK WHAT THEY **KNOW** ABOUT IT, AND THEY DON'T KNOW **MUCH**. IN FACT THEY KNOW **NOTHING**!



DON'T LET THAT BOTHER YOU. READ THIS LETTER FROM **GUATEMALA**. WHY THE **TURF ASSOCIATION** IS SENDING THE **DISTRICT MANAGER** TO SEE ME IN PERSON!

THAT BEGINS TO MAKE SENSE. LET'S GO DOWN TO THE **LOBBY**!



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

HAVANA HARRY! BOY, OH, BOY, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR YEARS. MEET THE GIRL FRIEND, WINNIE NORTON.

MARTY BLAKE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS BURG? YOU ALWAYS HOLED IN DOWN AROUND SARASOTA DURING THE OFF SEASON!

LISTEN... IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN, MARTY, THAT YOUR FULL NAME IS JUNIUS M. BLAKE?

IT'S JUNIUS MARTIN BLAKE AND I PREFER THE MARTY PART. SAY... WHAT'S UP?

OH-HO. I THINK I KNOW LET'S GET SOMEWHERE PRIVATE!

SOON AFTER...

I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT IT, MARTY, AN OLD CARNEY LIKE YOU FALLING FOR A SUCKER GAME..

BUT HARRY! YOU'VE GOT CREDENTIALS! AND THESE NEWS-PAPERS FROM GUATEMALA TELL ALL ABOUT THE SWEEPSTAKES..

PIPE DOWN, MARTY AND LISTEN!

THERE *ISN'T* ANY GUATEMALA SWEEPSTAKES. IT'S A DODGE COOKED UP BY SOME GUYS WHO ARE DOWN THERE DODGING EXTRADITION! THE TICKETS ARE PRINTED HERE, AND SO ARE ..

.. THE SPANISH NEWSPAPERS! THEY PAID ME TO PULL THE REPRESENTATIVE GAG, BECAUSE I SPEAK SPANISH!

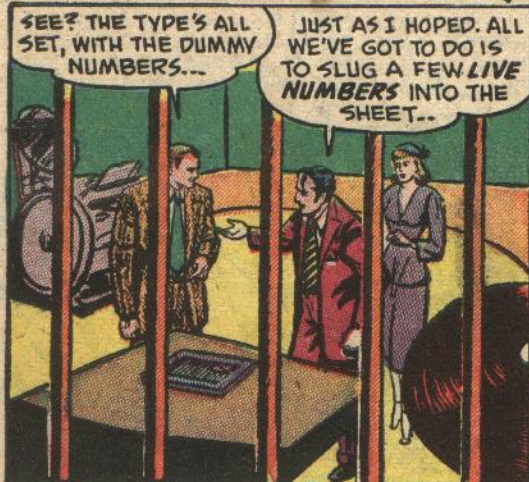
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

OF COURSE IT'S CONVINCING STUFF.. LIKE THIS NEWSPAPER WITH ALL THE LAST SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS. THERE WILL BE ANOTHER PRINTED TO COVER THE PRESENT STAKES TOO...

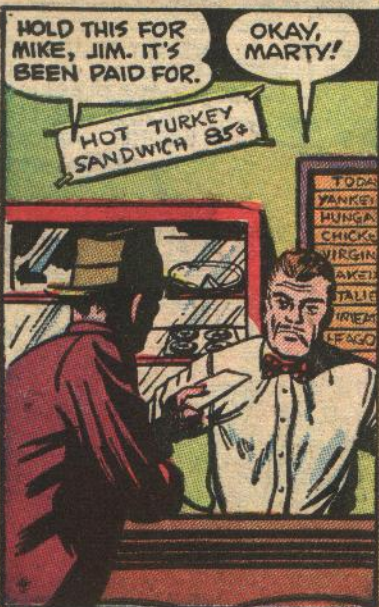
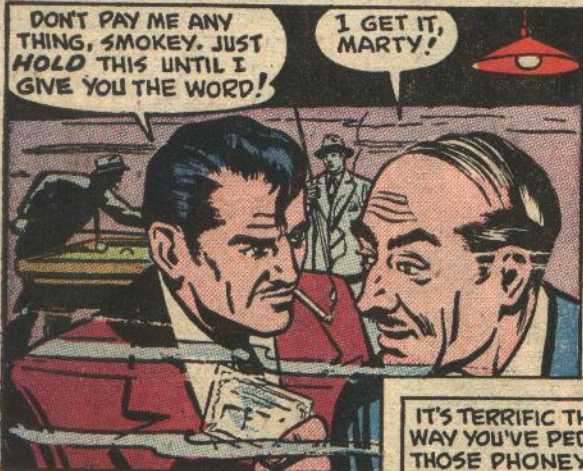
..BUT OF COURSE NONE OF THE NUMBERS YOU'VE BEEN PEDDLING WILL BE LISTED IN IT. THAT'S THE DODGE, SEE?

I GOT AN IDEA! TAKE ME DOWN TO THE PLANT WHERE THEY PRINT THESE PAPERS, HARRY!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



AND SO DURING THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, MARTY "SOLD" THE RIGHT TICKET TO THE "RIGHT" GUYS...



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AND FINALLY!!!

HI, MARTY! WASN'T THAT SWEEPSTAKES RUN YET?

I TOOK TEN BUCKS WORTH OF THOSE TICKETS!

IT'S BEEN RUN BOYS, BUT THE RESULTS AREN'T OFFICIAL UNTIL THEY APPEAR IN THE GUATEMALA NEWSPAPER. I'LL HAVE COPIES IN TOMORROW!

WHEN DO WE KNOW IF WE WON?



I HOPE MARTY AIN'T STRINGING US!

HE BETTER NOT!

I SHOULD'VE TOLD MARTY THAT MIKE NEVER PICKED UP HIS TICKET! WELL, I GUESS IT WON'T WIN ANYWAY.



MEANWHILE...

THEY'RE HOT OFF THE PRESS, MARTY. I'M SHIPPING THEM NOW!

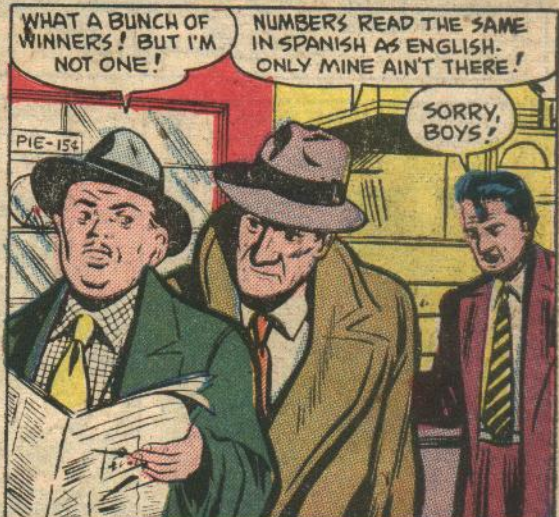
SEND ME A BATCH BY SPECIAL MESSENGER. I'LL CHILL THE CHUMPS, THEN FEED IN THE WINNERS EASY.



WHAT A BUNCH OF WINNERS! BUT I'M NOT ONE!

NUMBERS READ THE SAME IN SPANISH AS ENGLISH. ONLY MINE AIN'T THERE!

SORRY, BOYS!



WHY, HELLO, BOYS! HOW'S EVERY LITTLE THING IN GUATEMALA?

FINE. WE WANT TO KNOW HOW THEY ARE RIGHT HERE!

WE FLEW UP TO FIND OUT!



WE GET RADIOGRAMS, SAYING SOME CUSTOMERS HELD WINNING TICKETS.

YOU WERE THE GUY WHO DID THE PRINTING FOR US...

I ONLY HAD IT DONE. IT'S JUST A MISTAKE...



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



THAT WOULD HAVE SILENCED MOST CUSTOMERS BUT NOT JIM... YOU SEE, HIS HANDS WERE CLEAN BUT THE SWINDLERS DIDN'T REALIZE IT... HE WAS NOT COLLECTING FOR HIMSELF, BUT FOR A FRIEND CALLED MIKE... BEING HONEST, JIM CAME TO ME...

OF COURSE I **COULD** HAVE BOUGHT THE TICKET MYSELF.. THERE'S NO WAY THAT I CAN PROVE I DIDN'T. MAYBE IT'S ILLEGAL, MY EVEN OWNING IT...

WE'LL SKIP THAT POINT, JIM!



THE MAIN THING IS, YOU'VE GIVEN US A CONCISE, COHERENT STATEMENT, YOU'VE NAMED ONE MAN WHO SOLD THESE TICKETS, MARTY BLAKE. KEEP RIGHT ON TRYING TO COLLECT. WE'LL DO THE REST!



THE NEXT DAY...

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S MIKE'S TICKET, IT'S WORTH FIVE HUNDRED BUCKS TO ME!

LOOK.. I'M OFFERING YOU A C-NOTE ON ACCOUNT. YOU WON'T TAKE IT... SO ALL RIGHT, GIVE ME TIME!

FUNNY, ALL THE DOUGH MARTY TOOK... AND NOW HE WON'T PAY OFF!



HEY, MARTY! WHO WERE SOME OF THE GUYS WHO WON? JUST **NAME THEM!**

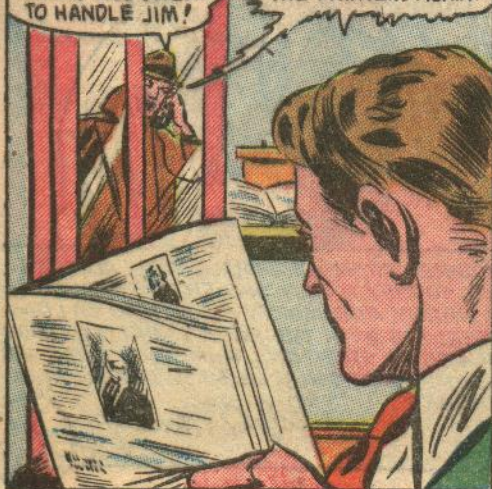
DON'T ANSWER MARTY. JUST ACT... AND FAST!

O.K. WINNIE! YOU STALL HIM WHILE I DUCK IN THIS PHONE BOOTH!



...AND SINCE THE MOB WANTS IT THAT WAY HARRY, TELL **THEM** TO HANDLE JIM!

OKAY MARTY, BUT DON'T CALL ME AT THE PRINTERS AGAIN!



MY MAN WAS SHADOWING MARTY AND CAUGHT THE NUMBER THAT HE PHONED. THAT GAVE US A LEAD TO THE PRINTING PLANT, WHERE WE LEARNED...

LISTEN, HAVANA HARRY HAS TOLD US THAT THESE NEWSPAPERS ARE REALLY GOING TO HAVANA, AS FOR THE TICKETS, WE DIDN'T PRINT THEM!

GOOD ENOUGH, STEVE! CHECK ON HAVANA HARRY THROUGH MARTY BLAKE!

RIGHT CHIEF!



RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



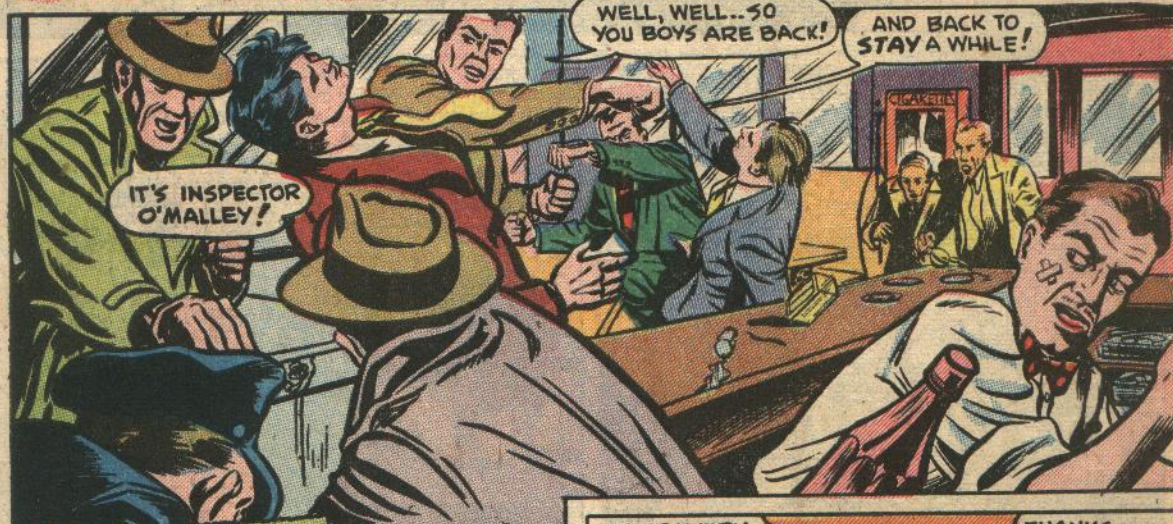
THE MOB SAYS WE'RE TO LET JIM GET LOUD-MOUTHED... THEN THEY'LL MOVE IN AND HANDLE HIM.

GOOD ENOUGH. THAT WILL MAKE CLAMS OUT OF THE POOR LOSERS WHO HOLD BUM TICKETS!

YOU SEE, JIM? WE SAID LISTEN TO REASON...

ONLY HE DIDN'T

NO, NO... O.K. O'MALLEY, MOVE IN WITH YOUR MEN!



IT'S INSPECTOR O'MALLEY!

WELL, WELL... SO YOU BOYS ARE BACK!

AND BACK TO STAY A WHILE!

MEANWHILE AS O'MALLEY MEETS STEVE OUTSIDE...

SORRY I COULDN'T STEP INSIDE TO HELP YOU, INSPECTOR, BUT I WAS BUSY STOPPING THESE RATS.

WE DIDN'T NEED YOU, STEVE... AND APPARENTLY YOU DIDN'T NEED US!



JIM, IF EVERY CITIZEN WOULD TELL THE POLICE HIS TROUBLES THE WAY YOU DID, LAW AND ORDER WOULD GET THE JUMPMON CRIME EVERY TIME!

THANKS, INSPECTOR O'MALLEY!



THE MOBBIES FROM GUATEMALA WERE ALREADY WANTED, SO THEY TOOK A KING-SIZED PENALTY... HAVANA HARRY AND MARTY BLAKE HAD SO LINKED THEMSELVES WITH THE RACKET THAT THEY HADN'T A LEGAL LEG TO STAND ON... AND SINCE THEN, THE BIG SWEEPSTAKES SWINOLE HASN'T BEEN TRIED ANYWHERE!

J. J. O'Malley

The End

IT'S A RACKET!

The Old SHELL GAME

STEP RIGHT UP FOLKS!
HERE'S FUN FOR ALL!
A GAME WHERE YOU
CAN'T LOSE... IF YOU
LOOK SHARP! A PEA
AND THREE WALNUT
SHELLS...

AND I MOVE THE SHELLS
AROUND... HERE... THERE...
OF COURSE YOU'RE
FOLLOWING ME, SO
PUT UP YOUR MONEY!

I COVER THE PEA
WITH ONE SHELL..
SO...

..AND TELL ME, WHERE
IS THE PEA? OVER THERE
YOU THINK? YOU OUGHT
TO KNOW... SO I TURN
IT UP!

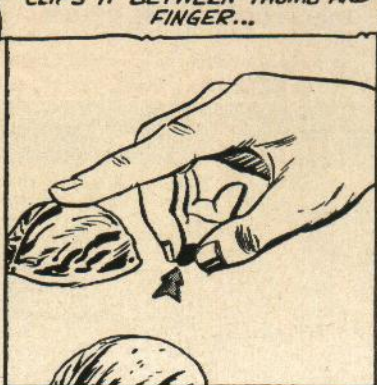
WELL, WELL.. IT'S OVER HERE!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW! I WIN
THIS TIME.. BUT BETTER LUCK
NEXT TIME! LET'S TRY
AGAIN...

WHAT'S THAT..
NOT THERE?

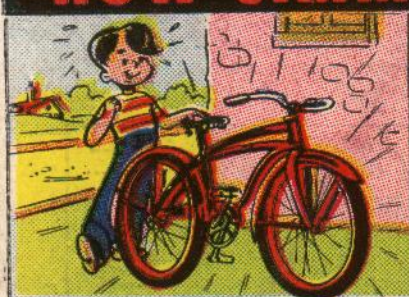
BUT YOU NEVER CAN WIN..
AND HERE'S WHY! THE PEA
IS REALLY A RUBBER BALL...

..THAT SQUEEZES OUT BENEATH
THE SHELL WHEN IT IS PUSHED
FORWARD. THE OPERATOR
CLIPS IT BETWEEN THUMB AND
FINGER...

..SO IT ISN'T UNDER ANY
SHELL! AFTER YOU'VE GUESSED
WRONG, THE OPERATOR PUTS
IT UNDER ANOTHER BY SIMPLY
REVERSING HIS ORIGINAL MOVE!



HOW JIMMY GOT HIS NEW BIKE!



HEY, GANG, THERE'S JIMMY WITH THE NEW BIKE HE'D BEEN SAVING FOR!

WONDER HOW HE SAVED THE MONEY?

LET'S GO ASK HIM!



IT WAS EASY TO SAVE MONEY WITH MY NEW TELEVISION BANK!

WHEN RELATIVES, NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS VISITED, THEY ALL PUT COINS IN THE TELEVISION BANK TO SEE IT LIGHT UP!

IN JUST NO TIME, I SAVED ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY THIS NIFTY BIKE!



HEY KIDS! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WE'RE GOING TO SEND IN OUR COUPONS FOR A TELEVISION BANK!

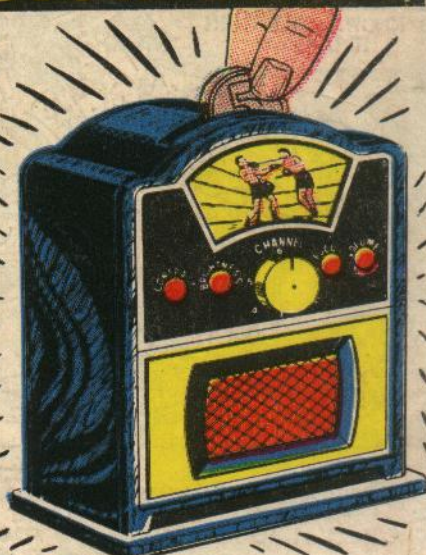


LOTS OF FUN AND MONEY! WITH THIS TELEVISION BANK

LIGHTS UP!
LIKE BIGGEST, COSTLIEST
TELEVISION SETS!

- SHOWS BRILLIANT PICTURES IN FULL COLOR!
- HITS EVERY TELEVISION HIGH . . . FIGHTS AND ALL!
- THRILLS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS POP-EYED!
- AND . . . MAKES YOUR SAVINGS MOUNT UP FAST!

ALL-STEEL CONSTRUCTION
ONLY \$1.98.



BIGGEST ATTRACTION EVER!

Everyone will want to see this amazing new Television Bank. Your friends, relatives and neighbors can't resist putting in coins to see this sensational show!

LIGHTS UP THE INSTANT YOU DROP COIN! Just insert a penny, nickel, dime or quarter into the slot on top. In a split second your spectacular Television Bank lights up—in a big, BIG way! The screen leaps into dazzling life with the brightest, clearest, pictures yet!

TURN OF KNOB SHOWS NEXT EXCITING PICTURE! After you've looked your admiring fill at one picture, just turn center knob for next thrill-packed "show". Light goes out automatically as new picture appears. To light new picture, bank another coin. SIX exciting pictures—a fight, a hilarious cartoon, a tense rodeo scene, a swell figure skater, a dramatic dance team and a circus clown with his trick dog!

PUTS YOU "IN THE MONEY"—AND FAST!

Your savings pile up PLENTY FAST with this marvelous new Television Bank! Everyone wants to see all six pictures—your savings grow and grow by leaps and bounds!

IT'S A HONEY IN EVERY DETAIL!

This sensational Television Bank is an exact miniature of the most expensive console models. Rich-looking mahogany finish with four simulated dials and speaker grille, 4 1/4" x 4" and ruggedly constructed. Will give you years of fun and big savings!

COMPLETE WITH BATTERY AND BULB!

GUARANTEED TO DELIGHT YOU!
Bank comes complete with bulb, battery and strong key for opening and emptying your wealth of savings.

GIRLS! DOLL HOUSE OWNERS! Nothing is so truly luxurious for your doll house. This beautiful new Television bank matches all styles of furniture. It makes an elegant addition to your doll's living room!

SEAGEE CO., Dept. CC3, 2 Allen St., New York 2, N. Y.

BE THE FIRST IN YOUR CROWD TO HAVE THIS WONDERFUL NEW TELEVISION BANK! SEND NO MONEY! ORDER YOURS TODAY!

SEAGEE CO.,

Dept. CC3

2 Allen Street,

New York 2, N. Y.

Name _____

(Please Print Plainly)

Street _____

City _____

Zone _____ State _____

☐ I enclose \$1.98. You pay postage. Same money-back guarantee.

Please rush me my TELEVISION BANK. I agree to pay postman \$1.98 plus few cents postage with understanding that if I am not delighted I may return bank in 5 days for full refund of purchase price.